

Message Text

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COMUSJAPAN YOKOTA JAPAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 11402

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OREP (WOLFF, LESTER L.), MARR JA KS KN

SUBJ: CODEL WOLFF: FOREIGN MINISTER MIYAZAWA'S COMMENTS ON
KOREAN SECURITY

REF: TOKYO 11354

1. FOLLOWING ON EXCHANGE REPORTED IN REFTEL (PARA 10)
CONGRESSMAN MEYERS ASKED WHETHER IN THE EVENT OF A
NORTH KOREAN ATTACK ON THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA USE OF
US BASES IN JAPAN WOULD BE ACCEPTED BY JAPANESE PUBLIC.
FOREIGN MINISTER'S REPLY FOCUSSED ON PROBLEM GOJ WOULD
FACE IN SUCH CONTINGENCY OF PURSUADING JAPANESE PUBLIC
THAT JAPAN'S OWN INTEREST DIRECTLY INVOLVED. IF, HE
SAID, THE ATTACK WAS AN OVERT ACT OF AGGRESSION THEN
THIS PROBLEM WOULD BE GREATLY REDUCED. HOWEVER, IF
NORTH KOREAN THREAT TOOK FORM OF COVERT OR
GUERRILLA ACTION, THEN IT MIGHT BE DIFFICULT TO
PURSUADE JAPANESE PUBLIC THAT GOVERNMENT SHOULD
PERMIT US USE OF BASES. FOREIGN
MINISTER COMMENTED THAT DURING HIS RECENT MEETING
WITH PRESIDENT PARK HE HAD GAINED IMPRESSION THAT
PARK FELT QUESTION OF OVERT NORTH KOREAN ATTACK WAS
NOT ONE OF WHETHER BUT WHEN. CHAIRMAN WOLFF SIAD
THAT PARK HAD NOT TAKEN SUCH A LINE WITH CODEL.
ALTHOUGH REPUBLIC OF KOREA DOES FEEL CONSTANT THREAT,
PARK DID NOT CONVEY TO CODEL SENSE OF IMMINENT FRONTAL
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ATTACK. THE MORE APPARENT DANGER SEEMED TO BE ONE OF
SUBVERSION FROM WITHIN. CHAIRMAN WOLFF TOOK OCCASION
TO CONGRATULATE FOREIGN MINISTER ON IMPROVEMENT IN
ROK-JAPAN RELATIONS NOTING THAT IT IS IN INTEREST OF

BOTH NATIONS THAT THEY MAINTAIN STABLE AND CLOSE
RELATIONSHIP.

2. CONGRESSMAN MINETA REMARKED THAT IN MEETING WITH
CODEL, PRIME MINISTER KIM CHONG-PIL HAD TAKEN AN
UNUSUALLY HARSH LINE CONCERNING JAPAN, SOMETHING
NOT ENCOUNTERED IN DISCUSSIONS WITH OTHER ROK LEADERS.
CONGRESSMAN MINETA SUGGESTED THAT THIS
MAY HAVE REFLECTED ROKG CONCERN AND SUSPICION
GENERATED BY UTSUNOMIYA VISIT TO NORTH KOREA, AND HE
SUGGESTED THAT THAT VISIT MAY HAVE SETBACK THE
IMPROVEMENT IN ROK-JAPAN RELATIONS ACHIEVED AT TIME
OF MIYAZAWA VISIT. MIYAZAWA CONCEDED THAT
UTSUNOMIYA VISIT TO NORTH KOREA WAS PROBABLY NOT
WORTH THE ADVERSE REACTION IT SEEMED TO HAVE CAUSED
IN THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA, AND HE STATED THAT GOJ DID
NOT LEARN ANYTHING NEW FROM UTSUNOMIYA VISIT. FOREIGN
MINISTER EXPLAINED THAT PRIME MINISTER MIKI IS
ENDEAVORING TO DEVELOP SOME CONTACT WITH NORTH
KOREA IN THE BELIEF THAT A LONG-TERM SOLUTION TO THE
PROBLEMS PRESENTED BY TENSIONS ON THE KOREAN PENINSULA
WOULD BE POSSIBLE ONLY WHEN THERE CAN BE A MEANINGFUL
DIALOGUE BETWEEN THE NORTH AND SOUTH. CONGRESSMAN
DELAGARZA ASKED WHETHER JAPAN IS PREPARED TO TAKE ANY
INITIATIVE IN BRINGING ABOUT SUCH A DIALOGUE. THE
FOREIGN MINISTER REPLIED THAT ALTHOUGH MANY IN JAPAN,
AND PARTICULARLY PRIME MINISTER MIKI, EARNESTLY HOPE FOR
SUCH A DEVELOPMENT, JAPAN'S RELATIONS WITH THE REPUBLIC
OF KOREA PRECLUDE JAPAN FROM PLAYING ANY PRODUCTIVE
ROLE ALONE. HE SUGGESTED THAT JAPAN MIGHT BE ABLE
TO JOIN WITH OTHERS, PERHAPS WITH THE UNITED STATES, IN
SUCH EFFORTS.
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